

REMARKS

The Examiner contends that the application contains claims directed to multiple inventions as follows:

Group I, claims 1-5, and 10-14, drawn to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a branching enzyme, a vector comprising said nucleic acid, a host cell comprising said nucleic acid, a transgenic plant comprising said nucleic acid, a method for producing a branching enzyme and a method for producing a transgenic plant;

Group II, claim 6, drawn to a method for producing a branching enzyme for an *in vitro* system;

Group III, claims 7 and 9, drawn to a protein which produces alpha-1,6-branched alpha-1,4-glucans in *in vitro* systems;

Group IV, claim 8, drawn to an antibody; and

Group V, claims 15-16, drawn to starch.

The Examiner contends that the inventions are unrelated because they have different designs, different modes of operations and different effects.

Applicants elect to pursue the claims in Group I (claims 1-5 and 10-14), which are drawn to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a branching enzyme, a vector comprising said nucleic acid, a host cell comprising said nucleic acid, a transgenic plant comprising said nucleic acid, a method for producing a branching enzyme and a method for producing a transgenic plant.

Applicants submit that these claims are novel, non-obvious and patentable and request early allowance.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to August 8, 2006 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No.: 02-2448 for the extension fee due of \$120.00.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson, Registration No 30,330 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Leonard R. Svensson/
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